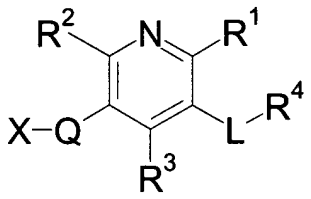
In the Claims

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner re-write the claims to read as follows, without prejudice to the filing of future continuing applications.

1. (ORIGINAL) A compound represented by the formula




wherein

$R^1$ and $R^2$ are the same or different and each is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted hydroxy group;

$R^3$ is an optionally substituted aromatic group;

$R^4$ is an optionally substituted amino group;

L is a divalent chain hydrocarbon group;

Q is a bond or a divalent chain hydrocarbon group; and

X is a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an acyl group, a substituted hydroxy group, an optionally substituted thiol group, an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted cyclic group;

provided that

when X is an ethoxycarbonyl group, then Q is a divalent chain hydrocarbon group, and that the compound is not 2,6-diisopropyl-

3-methylaminomethyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-pentylpyridine;
2,6-diisopropyl-3-aminomethyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-pentylpyridine;
2,6-diisopropyl-3-(dimethylamino)methyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-pentylpyridine;
2,6-diisopropyl-3-(ethylamino)methyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-pentylpyridine; and
3-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxymethyl)-2,6-diisopropyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-(indolyl-5-aminomethyl)pyridine,
or a salt thereof.

2. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein $R^1$ and $R^2$ are the same or different and each is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, and X is a cyano group, a nitro group, an acyl group, a substituted hydroxy group, an optionally substituted thiol group or an optionally substituted cyclic group.

3. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein the acyl group for X is a carboxyl group.

4. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein $R^1$ and $R^2$ are the same or different and each is a $C_{1-10}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl group, a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy-carbonyl group and a $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group.

5. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein $R^3$ is a $C_{6-14}$ aryl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s) and a halogen atom.

6. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein $R^4$ is an amino group.

7. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein L is a $C_{1-10}$ alkylene group.

8. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein Q is a bond.

9. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein X is an acyl group, a substituted hydroxy group, an optionally substituted thiol group or an optionally substituted amino group.

10. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein X is a carboxyl group.

11. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, which is 5-(aminomethyl)-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)-6-neopentylnicotinic acid;
5-(aminomethyl)-6-isobutyl-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)nicotinic acid;
methyl 3-{[5-(aminomethyl)-6-isobutyl-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)pyridin-3-yl]methoxy}-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole-4-

carboxylate;

{[2-isobutyl-6-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)-5-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)pyridin-3-yl]methyl}amine;

methyl 3-({[5-(aminomethyl)-6-isobutyl-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)pyridin-3-yl]acetyl}amino)benzoate;

N-[5-(aminomethyl)-6-isobutyl-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)pyridin-3-yl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide,

or a salt thereof.

12. (ORIGINAL) A prodrug of a compound of claim 1 or a salt thereof.

13. (ORIGINAL) A pharmaceutical agent comprising a compound of claim 1 or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

14. (ORIGINAL) The pharmaceutical agent of claim 13, which is an agent for the prophylaxis or treatment of diabetes, diabetic complications, impaired glucose tolerance or obesity.

15. (ORIGINAL) A peptidase inhibitor comprising a compound of claim 1 or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

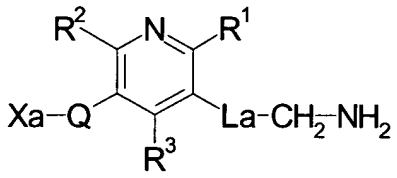
16. (ORIGINAL) The inhibitor of claim 15, wherein the peptidase is dipeptidyl dipeptidase-IV.

17. - 18. (CANCELED)

19. (ORIGINAL) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of diabetes, diabetic complications, impaired glucose tolerance or obesity in a mammal, which comprises administering a compound of claim 1 or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof to the mammal.

20. (ORIGINAL) A method of inhibiting peptidase in a mammal, which comprises administering a compound of claim 1 or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof to the mammal.

21. (ORIGINAL) A production method of a compound represented by the formula



(I-a)

wherein

$R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$ and Q

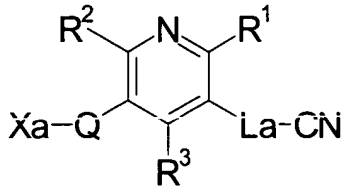
are as defined in claim 1;

La is a bond or a divalent chain hydrocarbon group; and

Xa is a hydrogen atom, a nitro group, an acyl group, a substituted hydroxy group, an optionally substituted thiol group, an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted cyclic group;

or a salt thereof, which comprises subjecting a compound

represented by the formula



(II)

wherein each symbol is as defined above, or a salt thereof to a reduction reaction.